

We could have run it across that way but we didn't because we were trying to get along. Now we happen to believe out in the rural areas that we are providing better child care by letting parents decide a little more about their children than the government. I guess you people here, or some of you, happen to believe the government can raise your kids better than the parents. Well, that may be true in Lincoln. Heck, the government may be smarter than you. I don't know. But don't try to tell us out there the government is smarter than us. We have got some people that raised a few kids. They know how and they are willing to keep doing it that way. That is all we are doing. We are not committing child abuse or any other nonsense. So I guess I would have to say this, we gave you this amendment and now you are saying, no. You are going to try to kill the whole bill now which kind of is reneging, I would call it, or whatever you want to call it. And so if we are going to take that approach, we will just take the amendment off and go the opposite way. Otherwise, I think you ought to reject this kill motion and put the bill across and get it taken care of just the way it is.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch, would you close debate, please, with your response.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President and members of the body, for the last time, I ask you, look at the proponents of this bill and the opponents. That is a rather interesting look. The proponents came basically out of Grand Island, a little neighborhood. That is where they all come from. That is their address. But when you look at those appearing against it, you see the Council of Churches from Hastings, you see other groups who have a great and sincere interest in youth concerned about the care of youth and suddenly we are going to disregard those individuals who give of their time voluntarily and who work diligently in trying to provide safety to the children of this state and we are going to fly right against them and say we disregard your public work, your service, your sincerity, your interest, and most of all, we have no respect for the rights of young children as is concerned with their welfare. I have an interesting quote, one of my favorites. In this world, I think it is appropriate. "No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care." Think about it because here we are in our wisdom about to pass a piece of legislation that is going to exempt a considerable number of children from any kind of standard as it pertains to their welfare. Senator DeCamp can talk about the ugly head of government but Senator DeCamp knows we passed laws that make sure that the water you drink every morning, that you brush your teeth with is pure so that you are free from certain kinds of disease that could be fatal. He knows that we have laws that regulate sanitation and sewerage. He knows we have all kinds of laws that basically get down to caring about people, their safety, their health and their welfare and that is what we are talking about today. Not the older people, we are talking about the greatest resource of this state, the children. This bill is that, and if you choose to support it on the basis of exempting a number of children from any standards, then that is your decision. I ask to return this bill to strike the enacting clause.

PRESIDENT: That is the motion. Record your vote. Have you all voted? Record.